

July 31, 2011

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations; (WT Proceeding - No. 11-65).

Dear Commissioners:

As you know, AT&T has applied to merge with T-Mobile to form a broadband and wireless provider that would bring coverage and improved services to more than 97 percent of the U.S. population. If approved, this merger would give residents of rural areas the tools with which they could grow their businesses and agricultural operations. For this reason, I encourage you to support this merger as it proceeds through the FCC review process.

As an Idaho State Senator, I am well aware of the communication challenges facing rural communities. My constituents in southeastern Idaho lack fast and reliable internet connections, and cell phone coverage remains very poor in some areas. This merger would provide the improved wireless broadband access and cell phone service that would allow our agriculture and tourism industries and small businesses to grow and thrive. I have no doubt that this merger would greatly improve the quality-of-life for the citizens of my district, as well as the region's economic forecast.

Taking the above into consideration, I hope you and your colleagues will support this merger. It would be very helpful to the people of Idaho and their economic interests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John H. Tippetts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent part.

John H. Tippetts
Idaho State Senator
Legislative District 31

CC: Chairman Julius Genachowski, Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner Michael Copps,
Commissioner Robert McDowell